

...Continued from page 3

Additional efforts to protect the City’s water quality are outlined in **Objective Three, Protect the City’s water quality by addressing flooding, drainage problems and erosion.** The City of Arlington’s storm water management plan can address the backlog of small capital projects designed to mitigate structural flooding. The storm water master plan will also review and provide recommendations for City ordinance updates based on regional and national best practices. In the future, Objective Three will be expanded to include hiring a Stormwater Engineer to oversee the program.

Goal IV: Make the Community Part of the Solution

- Objective 1**  
Develop a comprehensive public education strategy on environmental initiatives
- Objective 2**  
Develop and implement new educational opportunities
- Objective 3**  
Use partnerships for public education

Goal IV focuses on three components of a successful community-wide environmental effort that include enhancement of current efforts, development of new initiatives, and the creation of partnerships. These components can increase public awareness of the need for this effort and the opportunities for each community member to become an environmental steward. Achieving the vision of a clean, green community will necessitate contributions from residents, visitors, students, business owners, corporations and governmental institutions. All of these partners can make contributions by being involved in green living efforts and understanding the importance of environmental consciousness.

The initial focus of **Objective One, Develop a comprehensive public education strategy on environmental initiatives,** will be to develop an inventory of the City of Arlington’s current public education efforts on the environment. The City currently offers public education to a variety of

audiences on water quality and water conservation, air quality, energy conservation, recycling, composting and other trash reduction and reuse methods. Additional efforts in this area could include documenting current objectives, activities and communication venues; making enhancements to educational materials, including the website; and creating a communication plan for publicizing current environmental initiatives. Some examples of website enhancements could include links to carbon foot print calculators, ecological footprint calculator and information on carbon reducing and offsetting practices for individuals.

**Objective Two, Develop and implement new educational opportunities,** seeks to expand current public education efforts. While outreach to residents on environmental conservation opportunities is clearly strong, the chance to engage the business community presents a clear opportunity. A focused education effort in this area could include seminars, presentations, brochures and reorganization of the website for information on environmental efforts regardless of which City department facilitates a specific program. Specific tasks toward accomplishing Objective Two could include construction seminars for storm water and vegetation protection, and outreach to the business and commercial community with information on how they can be a good “green” community member.

In a community with such a wide variety of resources, **Objective Three, Use partnerships for public education,** addresses the need to build capacity by connecting key resources in our community to create collaborative efforts that can have an impact on our community’s environment. An existing example of this type of effort is the annual Community Litter challenge. This event involves over 600 community members, all engaged in a city-wide trash pick up the last Saturday of every March. Some near term tasks for accomplishing objective three could include efforts like including an environmental education component of the Neighborhood Academy and Neighborhood Summit, evaluating the contractual relationship with the River Legacy Foundation for opportunities to build capacity on youth and adult, education, and engaging the Chamber of Commerce to assist in disseminating public information on environmentally friendly practices in the business community. The UTA composting site will offer a new venue for public education and an increased public education drive called “Rock the Bin” will be initiated on Arlington ISD campuses. The City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has also partnered with Oncor using the LEAF program as a public education opportunity for Oncor’s “Know Before You Grow ” community campaign.



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This strategy is an outgrowth of organization and community work on the following City Council outcomes and priorities:

- The City is protected from flooding, drainage problems, and erosion.
- Arlington is an environmentally sound city.
- Quality parks, facilities, and green spaces increase the attractiveness and desirability of Arlington.

# The Plan for a Clean Green Arlington

## Introduction

Environmental awareness and the effect the environment has on public health is not a new concept to the City of Arlington. In 1994 the city initiated the first curbside recycling program which has expanded to include a variety of programs. These programs include household hazardous waste disposal and the Read and Recycling program, an opportunity for community residents who do not have curbside pick-up to recycle at community locations. Other programs to encourage residents to be environmentally responsible and reduce the community’s environmental impact include the Clean Air IQ campaign, the Lets Enhance Arlington’s Forest (LEAF) tree give away program, purchasing of hybrid vehicles for the organization’s fleet, incorporating LEED standards in municipal facility construction, water conservation with the Smart Yard Contest, “watering nixed 10-6” and rain sensor requirement on sprinkler systems. The annual Community Litter Challenge, Clean Up Days, leaf recycling and master composters program are additional ways the City is working with the community to keep Arlington clean and green.



The City of Arlington is eager to work as part of a regional team to increase the positive impact that our entire community can have on the future of our environment and the health of the residents who live in it. Additional teamwork, resources and initiatives will be needed as Arlington works to achieve its vision of being a clean, green and healthy city to live in both now and in the future.

The City of Arlington seeks to be a leader in protecting public health through environmentally beneficial operations, in protecting natural resources and planning for a sustainable community, in public education, and in creating partnerships with other organizations and entities that have the same objective. These efforts will realize long-term benefits for Arlington’s local community, and the North Texas region.



Goal I: Enhance Our Commitments to Community Health (Through Environmental Initiatives)

**Objective 1**  
Determine Arlington's Carbon Footprint

**Objective 2**  
Grow Arlington's green fleet and monitor technology for green techniques and materials

**Objective 3**  
Implement reduction and conservation practices for City of Arlington operations and employees

**Objective 4**  
Seek grant funding to implement the strategic plan

Through best management practices and sound fiscal stewardship, the City of Arlington can look at its operations for ways to conserve, reduce and reuse and set an example for the rest of the community.

In order to meet the emission reduction pledge that the City of Arlington has committed to, a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions caused by the organization can be used to measure progress by reduction and mitigation action plans. A carbon foot print converts energy use estimates and other factors into tonnage of emissions for a particular entity, in this case, the City of Arlington organization.

**Objective one, Determine Arlington's Carbon Footprint,** is the first milestone in the Cities for Climate Protection campaign. This campaign, created by ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, is an action plan for municipalities to achieve the reduction commitments in the U.S. Conference of Mayors adoption of the 2030 Challenge (Resolution #50) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Federal Climate Policy Framework, both of which were signed by Mayor Robert Cluck in 2006 for cleaner air and a healthier community. The 2030 Challenge commits the City of Arlington to reduce fossil-fuel GHG emitting consumption

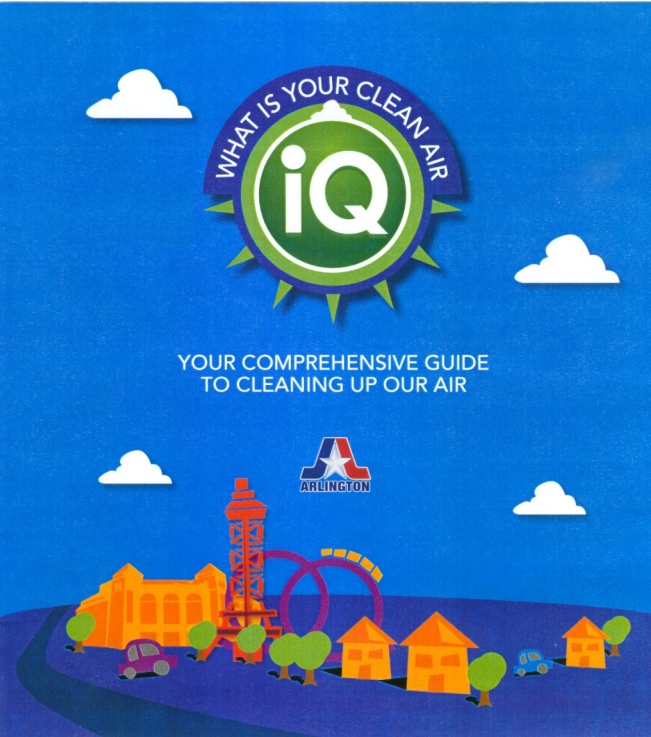
in all new buildings and major renovations 50% by 2010, and for all new buildings to be "carbon neutral" by 2030. The U.S. Conference of Mayors Federal Climate Policy Framework pledges to cut emissions by 60% of 1990 levels down to 80% of green house gas emissions by the year 2050. The Carbon Footprint will provide both a baseline inventory as well as an emissions forecast for the municipal operations of Arlington and the Arlington community. Various organizations and resources can assist with strategies to reduce this impact. Some of these include ICLEI, North Central Council of Governments, UTA and private granting entities.

**Objective two, Grow Arlington's green fleet and monitor technology for green techniques and materials,** explores an expansion of the organization's current efforts to increase its use of hybrid technology in the vehicle fleet. Plans are already in place for additional hybrid vehicles. Environmental Services department staff will continue to monitor the development of new hybrid vehicle and alternative fuel technology that may be feasible to implement in daily operations. Additionally, electric powered equipment, increased plastic recycling opportunities and the availability of recycled materials for municipal use are also being monitored for implementation when practical. Successful implementation of some strategic plan elements will depend largely on the availability of the necessary resources to meet plan objectives. Objective two also provides the organization with an opportunity to complete a comprehensive fleet utilization and ride share analysis and look for trip reduction opportunities.

**Objective three, Implement reduction and conservation practices for City of Arlington operations and employees,** allows the City to focus on its own operations and practices and lead both residents and peers in the region by example. In the 2007 session of the state legislature, House Bill 3693 extended the requirement that municipalities achieve a 5% per year reduction in energy use for six years. The original

bill called for a 5% reduction per year starting in 2002, a goal which the City of Arlington has met the past five years. An interdepartmental Green Policy Council (GPC) could review and recommend changes to numerous municipal policies and operations. Example of issues evaluated by the GPC could include energy audits and an Energy Conservation and Management Policy, retrofits of City buildings, purchase of renewable energy, uniform policies on waste disposal and recycling, water conservation and reuse, Sustainable Environmental Procurement Policy, bottled water ban, employee incentives for ride share and trip reduction and a No Idling Policy for municipal fleet. The presence of earth friendly technology at the Arlington landfill and the creation of the UTA Zero Green Waste Program present the City with some potentially unique opportunities in conjunction with the River Legacy Foundation and the City's Master Compostor program, which can be evaluated as well.

**Objective four, Seek grant funding to implement the strategic plan,** addresses the task of acquiring new financial resources to support the strategic plan. The newly created Arlington Tomorrow Foundation has a category specifically dedicated to grants to support environmental and conservation efforts and beautification. City staff will continue to seek grant funding from the North Central Texas Council of Governments and expand funding searches using the new City of Arlington Grants Champion team and software tools designed to identify grants for environmental initiatives. Other opportunities for accomplishing this objective in the near term could be provided by the Meadows Foundation and other private charities that support environmental initiatives. Research is also being done on available state and federal funding for emission reduction initiatives.



Goal II: Utilize Ordinances and Best Practices (for a Clean and Green Arlington)

**Objective 1**  
Use Green Building and LEED standards in municipal facilities (LEED by example)

**Objective 2**  
Promote and Implement best practices for community-wide conservation and emission reduction and for development and redevelopment

**Objective 3**  
Protect the City from flooding, drainage problems and erosion

There is a growing global movement in both the private and public sector to focus conservation efforts on the construction and maintenance of buildings. Some sources cite these activities as contributing 76% of national energy used and 30% of wood and other raw materials consumed, in addition to being a major contributor to global warming, generating 30% of national CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By encouraging the use of best practices in construction, the City can make a major contribution towards creating a clean, green Arlington. The City of Arlington has advisory resources already in place for accomplishment of **Objective One, Use Green Building and LEED standards in municipal facilities.** The Citizens Environmental Committee has researched and created a green building white paper with valuable information and recommendations on how Arlington can incorporate green building standards in future municipal facilities. The organization will continue to evaluate the feasibility of includ-

ing green building components in facilities already under construction. Staff members who are LEED certified will have opportunities to use their expertise to encourage greener building by the private development community as well. Future efforts could be expanded to include educating developers about design standards and best management practices (BMP) created by the TCEQ & EPA. By incorporating more of the EPA's BMPs into Arlington's development code, conservation and mitigation options like permeable paving, open space preservation and credits for green development become options for construction. Additional incentives for environmentally beneficial practices could also be built into the tree ordinance and landscape ordinance in the future. After working to lead by example with green building in the first objective, **Objective Two, Promote and Implement best practices for community-wide conservation and emission reduction and for development and redevelopment,** provides an opportunity to set the stage for

greater expectations in sustainable development from others in our City. Several options are already being examined, including an open space requirement and green building incentives in the Entertainment District design Standards, a rewrite of the residential and commercial landscaping requirements in the Zoning Ordinance and an expansion of the permeable paving allowance beyond fire lanes and the Major Sports Complex Ordinance. An ongoing expansion of the City's water conservation program will not only ensure future water supply, but also reduce carbon dioxide emissions due to the large amount of energy expended to pump water. Incorporation of International Code Compliance Software could provide the City of Arlington a tool with that benefits code compliance and captures emission reduction reportable to the TCEQ for credit towards the State Implementation Plan which are currently not able to be reported. **Continued on page 4**

Goal III: Leverage Public and Private Partnerships

**Objective 1**  
Utilize the expertise of the Citizens Environmental Committee and Citizens Policy Review Committee

**Objective 2**  
Partner with the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation

**Objective 3**  
Engage in financial partnerships.

**Objective 4**  
Evaluate the feasibility of creating a Keep Arlington Beautiful, Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate

Goal III encompasses opportunities to build capacity by merging resources and expertise among members of the community from various sectors, including residents, to form synergies around making Arlington a clean and healthy place to live, work, learn and play.

**Objective One, Utilize the expertise of the Citizens Environmental Committee and Citizens Policy Review Committee (CPRC),** engages the community expertise that is already in place to continue efforts on environmental initiatives. Participation from these volunteer committees will enhance community support for the plan, and contribute new ideas and strategies for reaching the objectives and goals in the plan. As the strategic plan evolves and is amended, these two groups will be valuable in maintaining focus on efforts that make Arlington clean and green. Additionally, the CPRC will be able to provide the Council recommendations concerning the storm water master plan, and implementation of the master plan key elements.

As the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation comes to life, **Objective Two, Partner with the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation,** promotes use of the Foundation not just as an alternative funding source but as a champion of environmentally beneficial practices. The City and other entities will be able to seek grant money from the Environment and Energy Conservation area of the charitable

fund, as well as other areas that meet both Foundation program objectives and environmental initiatives. The Foundation could also be encouraged to consider the environmental impacts of the projects they fund and favor those with environmentally beneficial implications. The Foundation could also assist by publicizing those projects with conservation, mitigation or reuse elements at the core of their objectives. Partnerships between the City and Foundation could also result in new sources of private funding for the City to invest in strategic plan initiatives.

Many partnerships with the school districts, universities and chambers of commerce already exist. **Objective Three, Engage in financial partnerships,** speaks to examining ways to increase financial capacity, as was demonstrated in the joint UTA-City effort to develop the UTA Zero Green Waste Program. Potential partners for financial partnerships included the Environmental Health and Safety Office, the President's Sustainability Council, and the School for Public Affairs all at UTA, as well as Living Earth Technologies, currently located at the Arlington Municipal Landfill. Expansions of current partnerships such as the UTA Zero Waste Program, environmental educational efforts in the public schools, water conservation public education with the Tarrant Regional Water District, and the Champion Arlington Strategy could lead to

opportunities for cost sharing on green programs that benefit all partners involved as well as the community at large. City departments with environmental initiatives can work with the internal resources to seek funding and partnership opportunities that match the community's needs in the area of environmental protection.

**Objective Four, Create a Keep Arlington Beautiful/ Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate,** provides an opportunity to establish an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful targeted for Arlington or the greater Arlington area, and implement a sustainable program with direct benefits to beautification, as well as health and cleanliness of the Arlington community. Research on best practices, potential costs of forming an affiliate, methods of funding, programs to be facilitated, and capacity for building partnership opportunities will be examined. The possibility of forming new partnership, development and implementation the program and accomplishing meaningful projects in the first year of existence will also be considered. Existing and potential partnerships with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, a Northeast Tarrant County cluster, the Master Composters, the Arlington Conservation Council, and Living Earth Technologies or Arlington Disposal could provide resources and guidance for this objective.